

COINQUEST, being a

... Publication for Collectors of: Countermarked, Cut and Holed Coins, Tokens and Medals; Siege and Necessity Pieces; Love Tokens; and, Numismatic Literature.

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VOLUME I, NUMBER 4

The Scribe's Scribbles

Wherein most anything may be discussed by ye scribe



I'm pleased to reveal to my friends and readers that I've been reinstated as a Life Member in the American Numismatic Association, by an 8-1 vote of the board of governors.

It wasn't the "complete exoneration" I had sought, but life appears to be a multitude of compromises, of which this is not wholly an unsavory one.

To each of the ANA governors, including the dissident, who certainly has a right to his opinions, I extend a hearty "Thank You," on behalf of writers, editors and publishers, everywhere.

To the protagonists involved in 1973 I offer my apologies for any embarrassment I may have caused: Peace! Now, let's get to the work, and pleasures, of numismatics.

More pleasant news from the ANA: Stewart R. Henderson, 16, of Farmington Hills, Mich., who wrote an article published in the first issue of CQ, has received recognition, and an award, for his efforts.

The complete story begins on page 56 of the January, 1976, issue of The Numismatist.

Stewart wants to be a numismatic writer AND president of the USA! I'm delighted that CQ had a part in his first success, but I reject any thoughts of becoming his campaign manager in 1995.

Readers who don't subscribe to Jess Peters' auction catalogs are missing a wealth of excellent reference material, as well as missing the opportunity to bid on many beautiful and historical countermarks.

The coin descriptions, reference citations and photographs in any one catalog are worth Jess' subscription fee.

I believe the vast majority of collectors have in mind a profit motive sometime or another... even frequently, so consider this little fact: The Ray Byrne auction catalog (deluxe edition,) compiled by Jess, and sold only last year for \$15, currently is being quoted at a minimum of \$25!

Beyond all this, though, is the fact that Jess is noted for his integrity, helpfulness and pleasantness. Can one ask for more? He and his crew DO have more attributes, but I must cut this down to size and give you his address, which is: Jess Peters, Inc., P. O. Box 123, Decatur, IL 62525.

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COLLECTORS' CIRCULAR

CMKS, Paper Overstamps Closely Related

By

Yasha Beresiner, NLG
London, England

Having greeted with enthusiasm the appearance of "Coinquest" it took little effort to persuade the editor to accept into his fold items of syn-graphic interest. I am pleased, therefore, to be the first to submit a generalised article on the subject of overprints and overstamps of paper money issues.

The subject matter in relation to syngraphics is immense and in future articles, authored hopefully by a multitude of specialized collectors, specific aspects will be covered. Here I would only like to go in very generalised terms into the reasons and occurrences of overprints on paper.

Change of denomination in the national currency of a country has often been implemented by overprinting the new monetary unit and value on the notes in circulation. This practice is basically for educational purposes, allowing the populace to become accustomed to the change in value of the money; it is also more economical.

Overprints are often executed to combat inflation. Under such circumstances, it is far cheaper to use existing currencies than to incur the expense of new designs, plates, paper, ink and printing processes. In the case of the German hyperinflation of the 1920's when the value of money was decreasing hourly, there was not time to print new notes, and this is why on several, the inflated value is overprinted.

The difference between overprinting and overstamping is self-explanatory; the latter is used under greater emergencies. The effect in both cases is identical. Any kind of alteration to a note, officially executed in order to alter the original intent of the issue, can be considered an overprint.

Normally an overprint will only occur after a note has circulated but cases are known where obsolete plates have been used to print a new issue, which is simultaneously overprinted with an additional legend. Such notes would appear as new, but the overprint remains the legal authorization of the issue.

There are many varied and unconnected reasons for overprinting

money. Overprints can indicate that a note is a "Specimen" or that it is "Cancelled;" or they are used in order to validate notes, assuring the public that the issues are in order.

The Yugoslav "Verificato" notes are a good example of the latter case. Yugoslav paper money deposited in the Belgrade National Bank was temporarily hidden in April, 1941. Local officials, fleeing from German troops entering the city, stored them for safekeeping in a cave in Montenegro. A group of peasants discovered the loot by chance and within a few hours crowds were at the site, sharing out the treasure and stuffing large sums into their pockets!

When the Italians occupied Montenegro a few weeks later, they were amazed at the peasants' wealth. Having discovered its cause, they invalidated all notes other than the current circulating issues, by overprinting existing notes with the "Verificato" stamp, to indicate they were the only legal tender issues.

Similar examples of much rarer issues are the Peruvian "Legitimo" notes of the 1880's in the "Inca" denomination. At the time the new series of issues was being falsified at a tremendous rate. The original notes were withdrawn by the authorities and prior to re-issue, overprinted with a comparatively intricate design with the word "Legitimo" in the centre.

The exact opposite, the cancellation of a note with an overprint, is also a popular practice. Many war issues were forged and when discovered by the authorities, overprinted "False." Notes overprinted in different languages could form a collection on their own.

The Portuguese "War of the Two Brothers" in the Eighteenth Century (also known as the "Miguelite Wars") is an exception to the common rule that overprints are due to inflation. A shortage of paper and printing facilities due to the wars forced the Portuguese government to keep the same notes in circulation for a period of almost thirty years. The issue had first been circulated in 1798 and initially printed on flimsy paper. The first alteration to the notes was the handwritten change of the date; the figure eight on the "1798" was crossed out and replaced by a nine.

Then the first "true" overstamps began to appear; as of 1800 the blank reverses of the notes were over-stamped with a dated seal of the crown. This was repeated yearly with each seal showing the initials of the authority under which the notes continued to circulate. The issues were often officially repaired.

The notes, as evidenced on the obverse, were valid for payment after a period of one year; the reverse stamp extended this validity period in order to allow the continued circulation of the issues and thus some of the notes have up to thirteen stamps on the reverse, all dated differently! Yet, the truly interesting overprints appear on the obverse of the note, in the form of a red stamp with a radiating pattern below which the name of either Dom Pedro IV or Miguel I appears, followed by the date, 1826 or 1828, respectively.

The former must have been overprinted at the death of Joan IV when it was expected that his son, then in Brazil, would return to reign. When this did not materialize, and Pedro's younger brother, Miguel, who had been appointed Regent and declared King in 1828, took to the throne, the notes were overprinted with the same seal but with Miguel's name and the date of his reign. The ensuing bloody war, and Miguel's final defeat, are part of Portugal's turbulent colonial history. There are a few very fine specimens of these issues.

The economy of many countries has, at times of internal strife or revolution, fallen into a state of chaos because of indiscriminate paper money issues, both by authorized and unauthorized bodies. The rebuilding of a country's economy has frequently been achieved by government nationalization of the country's private banking institutes. The paper money issues of the banks concerned were withdrawn, overprinted with the decree by the authority of which they were now to circulate, and re-issued. The reason for such a procedure, rather than the printing of new issues, was, as already mentioned, twofold; economy and education. In countries where there were many illiterate people, they could only recognize the values of paper money issues by the design of the notes.

(Concluded on Page 7)

Additions To Brunk's Bibliography

By Ulrich Schreier, ANS
Mannheim, Germany

It rarely happens that I enjoy an article as much as Gregory Brunk's "A Tentative Countermark Bibliography." This is a vast and wearisome task, but it results in an extremely useful type of work, and should be highly appreciated by everyone who collects cmkd coins.

From my point of view, the list should be regarded as a basic one, to be supplemented by all cmk collectors holding pertinent literature, in the same systematic method presented by Brunk . . . without stealing his show!

It'll be noted that I've added to the data, the publishers' names, which, I believe, should be done with all of the titles in the bibliography.

Usually, the numismatic journals and periodicals are generally known or easily traced, but this is less true with books. As few collectors will be in a position to acquire all or even a major part of the sources needed, the majority of us will be dependent on public libraries.

Librarians . . . however willing . . . cannot know every numismatic book. When asked to search for the wanted item in other libraries, they require: Author's name, title of book, number of tomes, the publishing house and its location, and the date of issue. Thus, a bibliography should quote the above mentioned data.

Last, but not least, I'd like to propose that CQ edit the bibliography into the shape of a handy booklet, "Countermark Bibliography," with Brunk as the author, of course, at a price as low as possible.

The few titles I can contribute are but a first attempt in the direction of correcting and supplementing Brunk's basic work. Using his format, I've indicated the proper grouping (chapters) where these additions should be inserted.

A. Mazard, Jean, *Histoire Monétaire des Colonies et de l'Union Française 1670 - 1952*, (Emile Bourgey, Paris, 1953). This is a modernized edition of Zay, correcting errors of this big pioneer.

A. Rasmussen, Nils Ludvig, *Svenska Besittningsmynt, (Kungl. Myntkabinettet, Stockholm, 1959)*. Among others dealing with cmkd coins including the Swedish -

West Indian coins of St. Bartelmy.

B. Golenko, Konstantin, *Gegenstempel auf Chersoner Munzen des Maurikios Tiberios*, reprint from *Hamburger Beiträge zur Numismatik VI* (Hamburg, 1965).

B. Krusy, Hans, correct error; title should read, *Gegengestempelte Prager Groschen . . .*, as it refers to the Prague type coin of the Gros Tournois.

B. Krusy, Hans, *Gegenstempel auf Munzen des Spät - Mittelalters*, (Frankfurt, 1974). An excellent evaluation of the author's earlier publications.

B. Schrotter, Frieiherr von, *Über die spanischen Billon und Kupfermunzen unter den Königen Philipp III, und Philipp IV.*, *Zeitschrift für Numismatik*, Berlin, 1906 (once available as reprint). A very important study!

D. Adams, Edgar H., *Guttag Collection of Latin American Coins* (New York, 1929). Although neither complete nor faultless, it is one of the standard works!

D. Hess succ., *Sammlung G.F. Ulex der Munzen Amerikas*, auction

catalog (Frankfurt, 1908). The indispensable supplement to the *Fonrobert, vide Weyl*.

D. Weyl, Adolph, *Die Jules Fonrobert'sche Sammlung überseeischer Munzen*, etc. (J. A. Stargardt, Berlin, 1878), *Amerika-Bande*. This fundamental work was reprinted in 1970 by O.I.N., Latin America only. The tomes containing Africa, Asia, and Oceania have been reprinted, (München, 1963,) but cannot be recommended, being facsimile prints in reduced size!

For the temporarily excluded German section may be noted some minor publications which are extremely difficult to obtain due to their limited number of copies.

— Buck, Hans, *Die Munzen der Stadt Einbeck*, (A. Lax, Hildesheim, 1939). This book contains a special chapter on the cmkd coins of the town.

— Grosse, Otto, *Vom Geld meiner Heimat Horde*, 36, *Special Issue of Rundschau der Geldzeichensammler* (Dortmund, 1967). A brief outline of the local coinage including pieces with properly identified cmks.

— Grosse, Otto, *Kleine Westfalia Munzfibel*, 38, *Special Issue of Rundschau der Geldzeichensammler* (Dortmund, n.d. (1968)). A very brief survey of Westphalian coinage, but showing several identified cmkd coins.

Another Enigma!

This copper enigma was recovered from the remains of a house which burned in 1929 in Woodacre, California (Marin County). It's believed the house was built circa 1870; the owner at the time of the fire was a Civil War Veteran. Along with the enigma, slightly melted together, was a 1871 Prince Edward Island one cent and several Indian Head cents.

The uniface countermark (in relief) pictures a tree, sheaf of grain and bundle of arrows in the foreground. What appears to be a body of water runs horizontally through the scene. Mountains and rising sun with rays in the background.

I believe this enigma to be a ranch token from the Southwest U.S. or Central America.

Readers with information on this cmk are asked to contact Charles P. Ross, Star Route, Alderpoint, CA 95411.

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A Question Of CMKD Pairs Rarity

By Robert D. Leonard, Jr.
Winnetka, Ill.

Ken Hallenbeck's comment in the first issue of CQ, concerning the rarity of tokens with countermarks from the same issuer, prompted me to investigate the number of possible combinations.

I have only one pair and four halves after many years of looking for them, therefore, I must agree with his assessment of rarity.

I've been able to discover only eight such pairs, and of those, one is borderline ... not really a countermark, but listed as such ... and another is dubious, perhaps not from the same issuer.

The list is as follows, with the issuer listed before the colon, the countermark reference next, and the token reference after the semi-colon.

1. Blanchard House, Monmouth, Ill.; (Ed Blanchard:) Gould 321, (Bibliography 5, unless noted otherwise;) Wright 1340.

2. O. & P. Boutwell, Troy, N.Y.: Gould 322, Low 174; Low 87, Wright 91, and Fuld 890B.

3. Devins & Bolton, Montreal, Canada: Duffield 167-172, 1254, 1255, 1398 and Charleton 44a; Breton 569, Charleton 44.

4. Flanagan's Punch, Philadelphia, Pa.: Gould 329; Fuld 750J, Wright 328.

5. Chas. W. Geekie, Baltimore, Md.: Gould 83; Wright 367, Miller 57-59.

6. M. L. Marshall, Oswego, N. Y.: Duffield 1411; Fuld 695A, Wright 668.

7. P. B/Puech, Bien & Co., New Orleans, La.: Gould 415, Duffield 1373; Low 82.

8. Yankee Robinson, Cincinnati, Ohio: Gould 76, The Numismatist, July, 1967; Fuld 165EZ.

No. 2, the Boutwell cmk, is simply an impression of the dies of the copper token on a silver two reales piece. It's included only because it's listed as a cmk by Gould; in my opinion, it should be excluded from this list because it's really an overstrike and not a countermark. To admit it opens the door to a vast number of "countermark - token pairs" in the Civil War token series, some (most?) of the overstrike halves of which were made long after the war (see Duffield, p. 79.)

No. 7, the P. B/Puech, Bien & Co. item, has been considered to be a pair — that is, "P. B." on the cmk stands for "Puech, Bien" — for over 60 years. The most recent exposition of this theory is by none other than Ray Byrne in the July, 1975, *Numismatist*.

Is it possible to doubt the weight of such authority? Perhaps. There are important differences between the P. B cmk and the Puech, Bien token, viz. the cmk is in French, the token in English, and the cmk uses initials, the token spells out the name. Howland Wood (p. 122) supposed that there was a gap of about 20 years between their issuance, far longer than any other pair listed.

Hopefully, more evidence will come to light to identify further the "P.B." of the countermark, possibly some contemporary reference to its date, so that this pair — if a pair it is — may be more firmly established.

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Translating Chop Marks

By Gregory Brunk
Waterloo, Iowa

The two chief problems in translating chop marks lie in the fact they generally are in an old style script, and often are monograms rather than simple characters.

Peter Hamilton, who has published the only article attempting to identify chop marks, was able to translate twelve chops, none of which was the name of a merchant, but rather were general descriptive terms.

Based on Hamilton's original work, I offer the following interpretations, slightly modified.

- A. Possessive form of "Son".
- B. "Treasure".
- C. "Master" or "Lord"
- D. "Treasurer"
- E. "Yuan", the Chinese dollar unit.
- F. "Piece".
- G. "Money".
- H. "My" or "Mine"
- I. "Palace"
- J. "Sound", as in, "Sound as a dollar."
- K. "Sound."
- L. "One Thousand," probably referring to the value of a Yuan as a string of 1000 copper cash coins.

of Coins and Tokens Relating to Canada, 1894.

2. J. E. Charlton, 1965 *Standard Catalogue of Canadian Coins Tokens and Paper Money*, 1964.

3. F. G. Duffield, *A Trial List of the Countermarked Modern Coins of the World, 1916 - 1917*, reprinted 1962.

4. George and Melvin Fuld, *A Guide to Civil War Store Card Tokens*, 1962.

5. Maurice M. Gould, *Merchant Counterstamps on American Silver Coins*, 1962.

6. Maurice M. Gould, "Counterstamped and Countermarked American Silver Coins," *The Numismatist*, July, 1967, pp. 841-849.

7. Lyman H. Low, *Hard Times Tokens (2nd Edition)*, 1900.

9. Howland Wood, *The Coinage of the West Indies*, 1915.

9. Benjamin P. Wright, *American Business Tokens (The American Store or Business Cards)*, 1898 - 1901, reprinted 1972.

A.	子	G.	才
B.	宝	H.	承
C.	主	I.	合
D.	安	J.	言
E.	元	K.	百
F.	交	L.	元

I enjoyed the numismatic articles in the January issue of *Coinquest*, but I don't appreciate reading about your problems with the ANA and Stanley Apfelbaum.

To paraphrase Jack Webb of *Dragnet* fame a number of years ago, "Just the numismatic facts, sir..."

James Peterson
Chicago, Ill.

You have a legitimate gripe, there, James, but I'll put the monkey on your (collective) backs(s). If I had had enough numismatic editorial copy to fill out that issue, you wouldn't have been subjected to my petty gripes.

Now, when do I get the first article from you?
Editor

Many Factors Help Create CMKS

By
Murray G. Weston
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Ever since the dawn of numismatic history, some 5,000 years ago, almost every country, both large and small, has experienced the use of temporary or emergency coinage at one time or another. The reasons behind such issues have been wide and varied: Siege, blockade, revolution, rapid colonial expansion, epidemic, special commemoration, or anything else that could cause a shortage of local coinage.

Our discussion here will be limited to official, crown-size, silver pieces of this nature (or base-metal equivalents thereof) that are represented in the collection of the writer or have otherwise been made available to him for the purposes of this article, and will serve as an indication only of different types of emergency pieces and the circumstances under which they were minted. For purposes of reference, items have been grouped into geographical areas in which they were used.

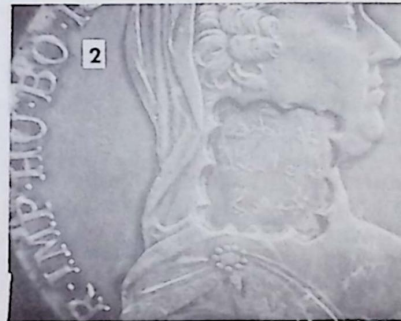
Perhaps the most common countermarked coins are those that have been chopmarked by business firms of Chinese and Indo-Chinese ports as proof of authenticity and proper weight. One example is a Spanish Colonial Piece of Eight Reals from Mexico City Mint, dated 1790, which has been stamped with many small chop marks. The reverse of this coin shows several more tiny stamps. In all, there are over 30 chop marks on this piece. The coin itself, also could be considered an emergency issue, as it shows the name of Charles the Fourth, but the head of Charles the Third who had died two years earlier, and portrait changes had not yet been made.



Other examples include two large chop marks on a Republic of Mexico, one Peso, dated 1898; an Eight Soles of Bolivia, dated 1843, showing a single chop-mark and two chops on a One Peso of Guatemala, dated 1871.

Often confused by the inexperienced collector as a chopped coin is the Japanese Yen (Photo 1) that has been counterstamped with the Japanese character "Gin," meaning silver, within a small, round punch mark. In 1878, the Japanese Trade Dollar, issued between 1875 and 1877, was discontinued as its silver content was found to be greater than the competing Mexico Peso. This happened at a period when Japanese trade was expanding rapidly so Japan was forced to use domestic one yen coins and counterstamp them for foreign use. These pieces circulated at 80% of the regular value of the Yen and were used mainly in Taiwan.

The well-known Maria Theresa Taler was popular over a very wide area. Many countries were faced with the problem of stabilizing the number of pieces in circulation within their borders and controlling unauthorized import or export. The easiest, most inexpensive and quickest way to do this was by use of counterstamps.



One particular counterstamp (Photo 2) was adopted by the French possession of Djibouti in Africa, on the Gulf of Aden. The Arabic inscription within the square, crenulated counterstamp reads "Abd-Latif, Silversmith at Djibouti."

Other countries which applied their own distinctive counterstamp on the Maria Theresa Taler were the Azores, Hejaz, Mozambique, Nejd, Qua'iti, Pemba Island and Yemen. In all, there are about 12 different authenticated counterstamps, used on the Maria Theresa Taler.

Next, a "Silver Rider" of Zeeland, dated 1785, was counterstamped with arms in a shield for use in the city of Soumenep, the capital of Madura, an island off the northeast coast of Java. Similar coins of other Dutch Provinces have also been counterstamped with this mark, as well as various Austrian coins and cob pieces; the stamp is sometimes oval, rather than shield-shaped. (Photo 3.)



By decree of 1832, various eight Reales or Peso coins of Spain, Spanish America or other foreign crowns were counterstamped with F.7°. Beneath a crown, in either a round or oval stamp for use in the Philippine Islands. The F 7° stands for Ferdinand VII of Spain. An example of this stamp is on an eight Reale coin of Peru dated 1833.

In 1834, following the accession to the Spanish Throne of Queen Isabella II, the counterstamp was changed to Y.11 beneath a crown. This stamp was applied to various South American Republic coins, such as (Photo 4). Mexico eight Reals, Zacatecas Mint, date worn; Bolivia eight Soles, dated 1833, and a Peru



eight Reals dated 1832. The writer also has a counterfeit of the latter, proving that even coins of necessity have not escaped attention of the unscrupulous.

(Continued on Page 7)

A Tentative Countermark Bibliography

By
Gregory G. Brunk
Waterloo, Iowa

(Continued from Last Issue)

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CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: Collector wishes to purchase the following c/s: "Devins & Bolton, Montreal," "Use G.G.G.," "N. J. Tracy," "Pears' Soap." Describe and price. John C. Allred, 1401 W. Whittier Blvd., Montebello, Ca. 90640.

WANTED: Canadian counterstamps on anything, or any counterstamps on Canadian tokens. Describe and price. J. E. Everingham, 204 N. Hills Dr., Parkersburg, W. Va. 26101.

WEST INDIAN COUNTERSTAMPS AND TOKENS. Will buy or trade. Let me know what you have. ANA, ANS, OIN, AVA, TAMS. Edward Roehrs, Arecibo, P.R. 00612.

WANTED: Photographs of coins of Napoleon Bonaparte with "cat" or screech owl counterstamps, for photo archives and study. Richard Dickerson, Dept. of Chemistry, Cal Tech, Pasadena, CA 91125.

SPECIALIZING in U.S. half dimes, dimes and half dollars, 1807-37. Would like to hear or any countermarks on coins that area. ANA, ANS, BHNC, JRCS. David J. Davis, P. O. Box 205, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

Creating CMKS . . .

The Kingdom of Tonga, in the South Pacific, has introduced an unusual series of commemorative coins by counterstamping limited quantities of earlier regular issues. In most cases, the counterstamped coins are also gilded.

On July 4, 1968, King Taufa' ahau Tupou IV celebrated his 50th birthday. To commemorate the occasion, quantities of palladium and copper-nickel coins that had been issued the previous year were counterstamped by hand "1918/TTIV/1968".

Likewise, 1968 copper - nickel issues were later counterstamped with an oil derrick, the date 1969, and the words "Oil Search" to commemorate the flurry of off-shore oil exploration in the area at that time; these pieces also were gilded.

In 1970, the fifth anniversary of the death of Queen Salote Tupou III was honored by the counterstamping and gilding of 1967 issues which had portrayed the head of the queen. The words "In Memoriam" and the dates "1965 & 1970" were stamped twice in two lines, either side of the date.

Although Tonga is an independent kingdom, it voluntarily placed itself under British protection in 1900. In 1970, to recognize this fact, the regular 1968 issues were appropriately counterstamped and gilded. The words "Commonwealth Member" appear on either side of the date with the year 1970 below.

There has also been an investiture series of commemoratives counterstamped and gilded in 1971.

(Continued Next Issue)

CMKS, Overstamps . . .

Columbian notes during the 1,000 Day War are possibly the best examples of such overprints. The national bank withdrew and took over the note-issuing activities of many private banks in the 1890's, overprinting the reverses with a range of laws and dates.

The affinity between counter-marked coins and overstamped paper money issues is close and there for everyone to witness. It is with some hope that I have been able, through this short article, to again point out that coin collecting on its own, uncomplimented by the charm and knowledge available from paper, is like numis without matics!

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Enclosed is: ☐ \$6.00 for first class delivery of a year's subscription in North America. (Please

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My collecting specialties are: _____

You may - may not - (cross out one) _____
publish this information. Please sign or initial _____

Writer Recommends CMKS For Young, Old

By David E. Lee
Arcadia, Calif.

To the young collector as well as to the advanced collector of numismatics, I earnestly recommend the field of counterstamped coins. It is a fascinating world that one then enters: merchant tokens, political tokens, West Indian coins, plantations tokens, coins that bear silversmith test punches, and last but not least, coins officially revalidated with increased or decreased values.

For over twenty years I have been collecting counterstamped coins and my interest in them continues unabated!

Merchant tokens present a panoramic view of business life at a certain period of our country: Thus, an 1853 quarter, "AMBROTYPE OF MOSES HALE"; or an 1856 quarter reading: "DR. SHATTUCK'S WATER CURE, WATERFORD, MAINE"; or "PARISIAN VARIETIES, 16th ST. AND BROADWAY, NEW YORK", on an 1865 half dollar, and others conjure to mind trades, products and entertainment of by-gone years. There are probably hundreds of such merchant counterstruck coins and probably an equal number of U.S. merchant counterstamps on Spanish American silver coins.

One finds counterstamps on every denomination of U.S. coins: Half cents, large and small cents, two cent pieces, three cent pieces (both nickel and silver), half dimes, nickels, dimes, twenty cent pieces, quarters, half dollars, dollars and trade dollars, and even on gold coins.

Probably the scarcest pieces are the twenty cent and three cent pieces. Gold counterstamps are very rare but there are several known pieces. The rarest of the rare are counterstamped territorial gold pieces, of which two are known to the author.

Advanced numismatists are aware of the absolute rarity of the Brasher Doubloon, which is listed in the red book. Probably the most common counterstamp on silver coins will be found on Spanish American two real pieces.

Political counterstamped tokens, although rarely seen, do make their appearance from time to time. "VOTE THE LAND FREE", counter-

struck on U.S. large cents, circulated during the election of 1848. The slavery question of the Free Soil Party was a burning issue of the day. Large cents with a log cabin (there are three varieties) circulated in 1840 when W. Henry Harrison ran for president.

Other political counterstamps include: "TYLER", on a large cent; "ANDREW JACKSON / 1829", on a two real; the bust of Grant; an eagle and also the emblem of clasped hands.

Other semi-political counterstamps are: the head of Washington on one side of a large cent and the head of Lafayette appearing on the other side, and the bust of Franklin on an early silver dollar.

From the earliest times, there was an acute shortage of coins in the West Indies. To remedy that situation coins of various countries, but especially of Spanish American nations, were cut and / or counterstruck. Pridmore as well as Craig show extensive listings of such West Indian coins.

The largest number of counterstamps that one encounters are those that have only names or initials. While many, if not most of them are not attributable, from time to time identification is possible. Consulting city directories of yesterday or advertisements in old magazines such as Harpers or Leslies is sometimes fruitful.

It seems that the greatest number of counterstamps appeared in the 1800-1810 and in the 1875-1880 periods. However, counterstamping was outlawed in 1954.

Foreign counterstamped coins circulating in the United States or at least found in the collections in this country are "PEAR'S SOAP" on a French 10 centime piece and "DEVINS & BOLTON" on Canadian large pennies; the latter also appears on U.S. large cents.

Surprisingly, there is very little literature on this subject. Maurice Gould was the giant in this field; his booklet "MERCHANT COUNTERSTAMPS ON AMERICAN SILVER COINS" is the definitive work on U.S. counterstamps.

Kenneth Hallenbeck has written several excellent articles for the "NUMISMATIST" on the subject. Several years ago Maurice Gould revised his booklet and the revision appeared in the "NUMISMATIST".

Other recommended books are:

(1) Duffield, "A TRIAL LIST OF COUNTERMARKED MODERN COINS OF THE WORLD"

(2) Ray Byrne, "COINS AND TOKEN OF THE CARIBBEAN"

(3) Donald Miller, "U.S. STORE CARDS AND MERCHANT TOKENS"

AUCTION .NOTICE

In about two weeks, subscribers will receive a free "MiniAuction" catalog, containing nearly 400 lots of countermarked coins and tokens. Non-subscribers will be required to pay \$1.00 for the catalog. A PRL will be printed in the following issue of CQ.

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